

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 were pending in the Application. Claims 15-33 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Hence, claims 1-14 are pending.

Applicants cancelled claims 15-33 so as to prosecute all method claims in one patent application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that cancelled claims 15-33 are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner. Claims 15-33 were cancelled solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the remaining method claims (claims 1-14). Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these (claims 15-33) and other claims in one or more continuation patent applications.

Claims 1-14 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and file a Notice of Appeal concurrently herewith. Applicants will specifically provide the reasons for traversal in Applicants' Appeal Brief.

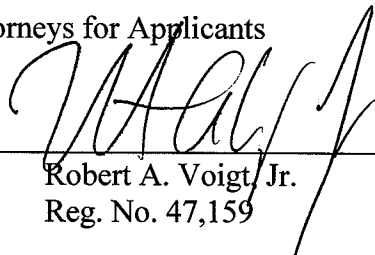
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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